

REMARKS

Claims 3 – 16 and 18 - 21 are now pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 14 – 16 and that claims 3 – 13 and 18 – 21 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form incorporating the limitations of the respective claims from which they depend.

Applicants have rewritten claims 3, 8 and 9, which depended from claim 2, into independent form incorporating the limitations of claims 1 and 2. Applicants have rewritten claims 18, 19 and 20, which depended from claim 17, into independent form incorporating the limitations of claim 17. Applicants submit that claims 3, 8, 9 and 18 – 20, as amended, are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 4 – 7 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 3 and are allowable for at least that reason.

Claims 10 – 13 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 9 and are allowable for at least that reason.

Claim 21 depends from amended claim 20 and is allowable for at least that reason.

Applicants have also made certain clerical amendments to claims 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 16 and 21.

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2 and 17, which stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and made the amendments discussed above to accept the allowed/allowable subject matter to expedite prosecution of this application. However, applicant disagrees that these claims were properly rejected and reserves the right to prosecute them in a continuation application.

Applicants submit that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore

respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. Applicants submit that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Aug. 5, 2003

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